(c) whether recently these owners have refused to honour holiday tickets of Rs. 4;

(d) whether D.T.C. has issued any instructions in this regard;

(e) if so, the reasons for issuing such instructions;

(f) whether Government propose to take action against owners of private buses under DTC for refusing to honour such tickets; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The private bus owners had represented for a share of the income earned by the DTC on the sale of holiday tickets of Rs. 4. As DTC were not prepared to share these earnings as these were remunerative and in view of the difficulties in determining the share, it was decided that "travel as your please" tickets of Rs. 4 which were earlier valid in private buses under DTC on Saturdays, Sundays and Gazetted Holidays would not be allowed in the private buses operating under DTC w.e.f. 19-1-91. Instructions in this regard were issued by the DTC on 16-1-1991.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) to e) above.

Curtailment of DTC bus services

369. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the DTC to curtail its bus services to save fuel, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of DTC buses brought out from DTC fleet;

(c) whether the citizens of Delhi are facing difficulty due to curtailment of DTC bus services; and

(d) if so, the details of the further steps Government propose to take to effectively augment the DTC fleet and to replace the old and overaged buses?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) & (b) No, Sir. The average number of DTC buses put on road during Dec., 1990 and Jan., 1991 was 3826 and 3856 respectively.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) & (b) of the Question.

(d) On account of financial constraints, DTC is in a position only to replace the overaged buses. During 90-91, DTC has been given sanction for the purchase of 506 buses on replacement account. Of these, 209 buses have already been procured and for balance 297 buses, action to procure is underway and the same are likely to be added to the fleet by end June, 1991. In additional, Government propose to accord sanction for acqusition of another 394 buses on replacement account this year.

Mishap of an Indian ship off Malta

370. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Ship, 'Continental Lotus', sank off Malta on 21st January, 1991;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident;

(c) the loss of life as a result thereof; and

(d) the relief given to the families of the deceased?